



**SB985– Correctional Services and Immigration Detention Facilities –
Minimum Mandatory Standards**

Position: FAVORABLE

March 12th, 2026

The Honorable Will Smith, Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee

Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

Economic Action Maryland Fund urges a favorable report on SB985, which requires that immigration detention centers in Maryland abide by the longstanding minimum standards correctional facilities are held to within the State. This common sense bill provides vital guardrails to the growing presence of ICE and its corresponding detention centers within our State.

Through our tenant and older adult direct service programs, Economic Action Maryland Fund serves immigrant clients and communities.

It is important to our organization that the rights of these immigrants are respected in and out of detention. A framework for safe and responsible conditions of correctional institutions already exists within our State. SB985 ensures that these trusted expectations can be applied to immigrant detention centers which are functioning in the same manner as jails and prisons.

SB958 is a fair and reasonable bill which gives voice to Maryland's deeply held values of ethics, fairness, safety, and due process in correctional facilities. Economic Action Maryland believes that everyone in our State is entitled to a standard of sanitation, safety, and care in their living situation.

In detaining immigrants within our State, detention centers are assuming the responsibility of upholding these rights. Maryland must enforce these minimum mandatory standards for its detained individuals. We stand strongly in support of SB958 and urge a favorable report in the name of equality.

Sincerely,

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

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Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Deputy Director

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